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## **MIDWEST MEMBERS URGE BREAKTHROUGH ON WIND FARM MORATORIUM**

*Letters to FAA & DOD Urge Workable Solutions to Allow Wind Power Projects to Continue*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Led by Wisconsin Representatives Ron Kind and Tammy Baldwin, a bipartisan group of twenty-two members of Congress from five Midwestern states joined in sending letters today to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Marion Blakey and Department of Defense (DOD) Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressing concern with a federal policy that has slowed or halted several wind projects while the DOD studies the effects of wind turbines on military radar systems.

In anticipation of the overdue report on the study, the letters ask the FAA and the DOD to work together with project developers - as they have done in the past - to find "workable solutions" so the projects can continue. Specifically, the letters request that the DOD and FAA investigate ways to mitigate any potential interference, rather than simply issue notices that block critical wind projects.

"As energy costs rise dramatically, improving our supply of renewable fuel is more important than ever. I would hope that our federal agencies could work together to protect our national security while adopting an efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly energy policy," said Congresswoman Baldwin.

In January, Congress passed a law requiring the DOD to study and report on whether wind turbines interfere with air defense radar. Until the study is completed, a moratorium has been placed on several wind power projects determined to be in the path of long-range air defense radars. The study has yet to be completed, although the deadline for the report has already passed. Meanwhile, the wind farm moratorium continues, jeopardizing the development of critical wind projects throughout the country.

In the Midwest, roughly 13 wind projects, which could power more than a million households, are affected. Five of the projects are in Wisconsin where energy companies say that before the moratorium, they were prepared to commit at least a billion dollars to their construction and operation.

"This is a critical time in our nation's energy future when we should be encouraging the development of clean, renewable sources of energy, not adding obstacles that will delay or derail them," stated Rep. Kind. "While we recognize the significance of the study being conducted, it is our hope that the Administration can find ways to allow these important energy projects to continue in a manner that addresses national security concerns.

American Wind Energy Association Deputy Executive Director, Tom Gray, said, "We stand ready to work with these House Members and government agencies to find acceptable solutions. However, overly broad restrictions that shut down the industry threaten jobs and clean, domestic wind energy and are not appropriate."

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